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Joint written statement* submitted by the China Society for Human Rights Studies (CSHRS), a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

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* Issued as received, in the language(s) of submission only.

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China's Human Rights Thought Advancing with the Times

1. **People-centered development thinking.** Different from various theological or heroic historical views, historical materialism regards the people as the main body of history. The people are the creators of history and the real heroes. History is born out of people's material life process and the process by which the people create material civilization, spiritual civilization and institutional civilization. The original heart and mission of the Communist Party of China is to seek happiness for the people and to revive the Chinese civilization. Taking the people as the center means that development purpose is for the people, development process depends on the people, and development results are shared by the people.

The people-centered development thinking is not an abstract, mysterious concept that stays in words and stops in ideas. The Chinese people have the most say in the human rights situation in China. China upholds the constitutional concept that all powers of the state belong to the people, and mobilizes and organizes the people most broadly to exercise state power through various people's congresses in accordance with the Constitution and laws, to manage state and social affairs, manage economics and culture through various channels and forms. Though joint construction, mutual enjoyment, and common development, Chinese people become the master of the country, society and their own destiny. Through the liberation and development of productive forces, China's socialist construction gradually realizes socialist modernization, gradually eliminates poverty, achieves common prosperity, and ultimately aims to continuously meet the people's growing needs for a better life and promote the all-round development of people. In China today, it has the largest body of human rights development in the world, and safeguarding people's rights has become the supreme goal of this largest developing country.

In recent years, CPC has clearly put forward the new development concept centered on the people, always placing the interests of the people in the supreme position, taking the people's longing for a better life as the goal of struggle, and constantly improving the level of respect and guarantee of the basic rights of the Chinese people. By the end of 2015, China has successfully completed the second target of the National Human Rights Action Plan, of which about 48% of the binding indicators and more than 50% of the people's livelihood indicators are completed ahead of schedule.

At the 19th National Congress of the CPC, principal of "people-centered" has become the core content of Xi Jinping's new era thought of socialism with Chinese characteristics. As the historical inheritance and innovative development of Marxist historical materialism, this idea is a summary of the experience of the CPC in leading China's revolution, construction, reform and development, and is also the fundamental guideline for the overall healthy and sustainable development of China's human rights cause. Guided by the people-centered development thinking, China's human rights cause is more closely integrated with economic, political, cultural, social, ecological civilization and party building, and the realization of people's rights of is more fully and balanced.

2. **Historical development view of human rights.** As a category of social history, human rights are a product of certain historical development conditions and stages. Marx advocates "real people" as the starting point and basic premise, understands human rights issues according to people's sociality and historical development, and opposes the old human rights concept based on the abstract "human" and "humanity" assumptions. In his view, "'human rights' is not a gift, but a historical one." "Rights can never go beyond the economic structure of society and the cultural development of society governed by economic structures."

The new great revolution of reform and opening up has broken the ill-conceived ideological concepts and the shortcomings of institutional mechanisms, the barriers of solidification of interests, absorbing the beneficial results of human civilization, and initially constructed a systematic system with complete systems, scientific norms, and effective operation. The development path of socialist human rights with Chinese characteristics has made China's human rights cause catch up with the times. As the chief architect of China's reform and opening up, Deng Xiaoping insisted on analyzing and studying the human rights issues in the contemporary world from a historical and developmental perspective, and opposed discussing human rights in an abstract or ambiguous way.

In the past 40 years , CPC and the China government have always insisted on treating human rights issues with historical, dialectical and developmental views. They have consciously innovated and developed in practice, and have always been committed to economic, political, social, cultural, etc. in a planned and systematic manner. In recent years, the Chinese government has clearly put forward the principle of "pragmatic advancement" of the development of human rights, emphasizing the integration of the universal principles of human rights with China's realities, and respecting the ideas and principles put forward by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and relevant international human rights

instruments. In accordance with China's specific national conditions, human rights development strategy that suits China's actual conditions has been formulated, not blindly copy the human rights development model of other countries.

3. **The overall development concept of human rights.** Human rights are an interdependent and indivisible whole. Marx said: "In a comprehensive way, that is to say, as a whole person, it has its own comprehensive essence." According to the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, all human rights are universal and inseparable, interdependent and interrelated. All countries should treat all human rights in a fair and equal manner and promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms.

In the past 40 years , China's human rights construction has adhered to the principle of interdependence and indivisibility of various human rights, coordinated, unified, and balanced development of human rights, and effectively promoted economic, social and cultural rights, civil and political rights, coordinated development of individual human rights and collective human rights.

The holistic development of human rights is embodied in the practice of comprehensive protection of human rights. In 2006, following the Constitutinal inclusion of the principal "Nation Respects and Guarantees Human Rights", "Respect and Guarantee of Human Rights and the Promotion of the All-round Development of Human Rights" strategy was first written into the 11th Five-Year Plan for National Economic and Social Development. In recent years, China has adopted the United Nations Declaration on the Right to Development as a guideline and adhered to the "development-based" implementation of the 2030 Agenda, vigorously promoting the coordinated development of the economy, society and the environment, and ensuring that everyone lives a life of dignity.

The holistic development of human rights is embodied in the construction of the socialist rule of law system with Chinese characteristics. Xi Jinping pointed out: "To comprehensively promote the rule of law involves many aspects. In practice, there must be a general grasp of the overall situation and the traction of all parties. This general grasp is to build a socialist rule of law system with Chinese characteristics. In this great process of advancing the rule of law, China has implemented human rights protection in all aspects of scientific legislation, strict law enforcement, fair justice, and law-abiding for the people.

4. The common development initiative of human rights. Human rights are an integral part of all civilizations, and all civilizations are equal and should be respected. China has always pursued common development and insisted that "It is necessary to let yourself live well and let others do well." China cherishes and respects the values and social ethics of different cultural backgrounds, and advocates that human rights should be mutually inclusive, mutually exchanged, learn from each other, and develop together.

Xi Jinping's "Building a Community of Human Destiny" initiative brings together the greatest common denominator of the people for peace, development and prosperity, and has become an important ideological guide and innovation highlight of China's human rights cause in the new era. In practice, human rights protection has gradually become an important part of building a community of human destiny. In January 2017, Xi Jinping delivered a speech at the UN Headquarters in Geneva, expounding in depth the propositions and concepts of jointly building a community of human destiny and promoting human rights protection through common development, which aroused enthusiastic response from all parties.